

above mentioned rehabilitation scheme, HDFC has disbursed an amount of Rs. 6.07 crore till date.

Maintenance of statement of accounts by political parties

4207. SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that national political parties are not maintaining accounts of their income although it is mandatory under the provisions of the Income Tax Act;

(b) if so, how many parties are not maintaining accounts; and

(c) what steps Government would take to force political parties to comply with the provisions of the Income Tax Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) All the National Political Parties have filed their return of income upto assessment year 1999-2000, enclosing the audited income and expenditure statements. Nationalist Congress Party has filed its first return for assessment year 2000-2001.

(b) and (c) In view of above, do not arise.

Restructuring of CBDT and CBEC

4208. SHRI KRISNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBDT and CBEC are being restructured as a part of a series of efforts to meet the revenue collection targets;

(b) if so, the measures taken in this regard;

(c) whether the target of revenue collection during the past few years could not be achieved;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the restructuring of CBDT and CBEC may help in achieving the target of revenue collections;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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(g) what other measures are underway to meet the revenue shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The restructuring exercise involving the cadres of these Departments, has been undertaken. The restructuring plan of the Income Tax Department has already been approved.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The main reasons for shortfall in revenue collection during the last three years are instability in crude oil prices, slower growth in industrial sector, new incentives provided during these years for infrastructure development, industrialisation, capital market and housing sector, and change in the pattern of imports.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The restructuring of the CBDT and CBEC would impart greater transparency and efficiency in their functioning and help widen the tax base, leading to generation of substantial additional revenues.

(g) Other steps taken to meet the revenue shortfall include rationalisation of the rate structure, simplification of administrative procedures in order to increase tax compliance, removal of exemptions, bringing more commodities in the tax net, and widening of the tax base.

Duty on import of ships

4209. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Shipping have approached for withdrawal of five per cent duty on import of ships; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken with a view to promoting growth of the Indian fleet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.